

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (previously presented): A welding system, comprising:

a cable electrically coupleable to a power source;

a member secured to the cable; and

a handle, comprising:

a first recess operable to receive the member therein in a first direction relative to the handle, wherein the first recess is adapted to restrict movement of the member relative to the handle; and

a second recess operable to receive the member therein in a second direction relative to the handle, the second orientation being opposite the first direction, wherein the second recess is adapted to restrict movement of the member relative to the handle.

2. (original): The system as recited in claim 1, comprising:

a neck; and

an operating switch secured to the handle to control operation of the system,

wherein the handle is adapted to enable the operating switch to be positioned on the handle adjacent to the neck in a first configuration and positioned on the handle adjacent to the cable in a second configuration.

3. (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the handle is substantially straight and has a first end, a second end opposite the first end, and a gripping portion that increases in cross-sectional area in each direction towards the first and second ends.

9. (previously presented): A configurable handle for an arc welding system, comprising:
a first receiving portion operable to capture a multi-faceted member of a welding cable with the welding cable oriented in a first direction relative to the handle; and
a second receiving portion operable to capture the multi-faceted member of the welding cable with the welding cable oriented in a second direction relative to the handle.

10. (original): The handle as recited in claim 9, wherein the handle comprises a plurality of handle pieces, each handle piece having a first and a second receiving region that is adapted to cooperate with a corresponding handle piece to form the first and second receiving portions, respectively, when the plurality of handle pieces are secured together.

11. (original): The handle as recited in claim 9, comprising a trigger switch, wherein the handle is adapted to enable the trigger switch to be disposed on each end of the handle.

12. (original): The handle as recited in claim 9, wherein the handle increases in cross-sectional area from a portion between each end of the handle towards each end of the handle.

13. (original): The handle as recited in claim 9, comprising a gripping portion, wherein the gripping portion has a generally oval-shaped cross-section.

14. (original): The handle as recited in claim 9, comprising a gripping portion, wherein the gripping portion has a generally teardrop-shaped cross-section.

15. (original): The handle as recited in claim 9, wherein the handle generally is straight.

16. (previously presented): A handle for a welding system, comprising:
a first end;
a second end opposite the first end, and

4. (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 1, comprising a wire feeder electrically coupleable to the power source and adapted to advance electrode wire through the cable.

5. (currently amended): A welding system, comprising:
a welding cable coupleable to an electrical power source; ~~and~~
a welding handle secured to the welding cable, comprising:
a first end;
a second end opposite the first end; and
a gripping portion, wherein the gripping portion increases in cross-sectional area from a first location between the first and second ends in each direction to approximately the first and second ends; and
a trigger secured within the welding handle between the first end and the second end.

6. (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the welding handle is substantially straight.

7. (currently amended): ~~The system as recited in claim 5~~ A welding system, comprising:
a welding cable coupleable to an electrical power source; and
a welding handle secured to the welding cable, comprising:
a first end;
a second end opposite the first end, wherein each end of the welding handle is
operable to receive the welding cable; and
a gripping portion, wherein the gripping portion increases in cross-sectional area
from a first location between the first and second ends in each direction to
approximately the first and second ends.

8. (original): The system as recited in claim 5, comprising a wire feeder operable to feed electrode wire through the welding cable.

a gripping portion between the first and second ends, wherein the handle increases in cross-sectional area in each direction from a location approximately midpoint of the gripping portion to the first and second ends; and

a portion operable to secure a trigger between the first and second ends.

17. (original): The handle as recited in claim 16, wherein the gripping portion has a generally oval-shaped cross-section.

18. (original): The handle as recited in claim 16, wherein the gripping portion has a generally teardrop-shaped cross-section.

19. (currently amended): The handle as recited in claim 16, wherein the handle is substantially straight relative to an axis through the handle.

20. (previously presented): The handle as recited in claim 16, wherein the handle has a minimum perimeter length around the gripping portion of 4.4 inches.

21. (currently amended): ~~The handle as recited in claim 16~~ A handle for a welding system, comprising:

a first end;

a second end opposite the first end, wherein the handle has a length of 6.38 inches to 9.50 inches, and

a gripping portion between the first and second ends, wherein the gripping portion increases in cross-sectional area in each direction from a location approximately midpoint of the gripping portion to the first and second ends.

22. (original): The handle as recited in claim 21, comprising a trigger, wherein the trigger has a length of 1.25 inches to 1.50 inches.

23. (currently amended): ~~The handle as recited in claim 16~~A handle for a welding system, comprising:

a first end;

a second end opposite the first end, and

a gripping portion between the first and second ends, wherein the handle increases in cross-sectional area in each direction from a location approximately midpoint of the gripping portion to the first and second ends, and the handle has a perimeter length around the gripping portion of 4.2 inches to 4.6 inches.

24-26. (cancelled):

27. (previously presented): A method of assembling a configurable welding gun, comprising the acts of:

selecting one of a first and a second end of a configurable welding handle for placement of an operating switch in relation to a neck of the configurable welding handle;

disposing the operating switch in one of a first handle piece and a second handle piece adapted to capture a welding cable member at each of the first and second ends of the configurable welding handle;

disposing a welding cable coupleable to the neck within one of the first and second handle pieces such that the operating switch is oriented at the selected end of the configurable welding handle when the neck is coupled to the welding cable; and

securing the first handle piece to the second handle piece.

28. (original): The method as recited in claim 27, further comprising the act of coupling the neck to the welding cable.

29. (original): The method as recited in claim 28, wherein coupling comprises securing the neck directly to the welding cable.

30. (original): A configurable welding gun for an arc welding system, comprising:
a handle securable to a welding cable;
a neck, and
a trigger securable to the handle, wherein the handle is adapted to enable the trigger to be positioned in each of four quadrants of the handle relative to the neck.

31. (original): The welding gun as recited in claim 30, wherein the trigger is securable to the handle in a first location and the handle is operable to be secured to the welding cable in a plurality of orientations such that the first location is positionable to each of the four quadrants.

32. (previously presented): A welding gun for an arc welding system, comprising:
a first handle piece;
a second handle piece;
a trigger to control operation of a welding system, the first and second handle pieces being adapted to receive the trigger; and
a neck operable to direct a flow of gas therethrough, the first and second handle pieces being positionable relative to the neck to enable the position of the trigger on the welding handle to be varied from a first position to a second position, the second position being directly opposite the first position.

wherein the first and second handle pieces are adapted to be gripped by a hand oriented in a constant orientation relative to the neck with the trigger in both the first and second positions.

33. (previously presented): The welding gun as recited in claim 32, wherein the second position is vertical relative to the first position.

34-36. (cancelled):